VII. *Extract of a Letter from Mr.* Benj. Cook, *F. R. S. to Mr.* Peter Collinſon, *F. R. S. concerning the Effect which the* Farina *of the Bloſſoms of different Sorts of* Apple-trees *had on the Fruit of a neighbouring Tree.*

Dear Couſin, *Newport* (Iſle of Wight), *Oct.* 1745.

The Apples ſhewn Nov. 14. 1745. I HAVE ſent you ſome *Ruſſetings* changed by the *Farina* of a next-door Neighbour, whoſe Name I wanted Skill to know; but can only ſay, that the *Ruſſeting* has exactly acquired his Face and Complexion.

[Mr. *Collinſon* then produced ſeveral Samples of the Apples; an unteinted Ruſſetting; a Ruſſeting

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half a Minute in View; and therefore had Time enough to contemplate its Appearance fully, which was what is ſeen in the annexed Figure,

A ſeemed to be a light Flame, turning backwards from the Reſiſtance the Air made to it. *B B* a bright Fire like burning Charcoal, incloſed as it were in an open Caſe, of which the Frame *C C C* was quite opaque, like Bands of Iron. At *D* iſſued forth a Train or Tail of light Flame, more bright at *D*, and growing gradually fainter at *E*, ſo as to be tranſparent more than half its Length. The Head ſeemed about half a Degree in Diameter, the Tail near 3 Degrees in Length, and about one Eighth of a Degree in Thickneſs.

C. M.

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ting changed in Complexion, which grew among a great Cluſter of unalter'd Brethren; and ſome Apples of the other Tree, which had cauſed the Change in the Ruſſettings, and whoſe Fruit had in Return received a rough Coat from the Ruſſettings.]

Theophraſtus takes notice of this Παραλλαγη, as he calls it; and tells us the old Divines were wont to make a great pother about it, and foretel great Events by it: *Pliny* informs us, there was one who wrote a whole Book about ſuch Changes. But the Uſe I ſhould make of it, is chiefly this, that it may be of Importance to the Curious in Fruits, to take care how their Trees are ſorted, and what Company they keep. For tho' this Change be not ſo conſpicuous in Apples which have a ſmooth green Coat, as in the Ruſſet-breed, yet one may ſuppoſe Impreſſions of this ſort often made on them; and perhaps their Juices alter'd for the better or worſe.

* * *

Yours, &c.

B. Cooke.

VIII.

Note. Sir *Joſ. Ayloffe*, a worthy Member of this *Society*, communicated, on *July* 1. 1731. from the Reverend Mr. *Henchman*, Prebendary of *Salisbury*, ſome Obſervations of Peaſe of different Colours infecting one another in the ſame manner as the Apples above-mentioned.

Mr. *Henchman*, in the Spring 1729. ſowed a Piece of Ground in his Garden with white Peaſe, and two double Rows of blue Peaſe, with an Alley four feet wide between; in Autumn, upon gathering ſome